

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member, comprising:

a stretcher for receiving the elastic member at a low velocity V_L and outputting the elastic member at a medium velocity V_M greater than the low velocity V_L ;

a carrier including a first pad and a second pad for picking up the elastic member from the stretcher, and a cutter for cutting off the elastic member while carrying the elastic member; and

a disposing station for carrying a web at a high velocity V_h greater than the medium velocity V_M and transferring the cut-off elastic member from [a] the first pad and the second pad onto the web,

wherein when the elastic member striding over the first pad and the second pad is cut off, an interval between the first pad and the second pad is shortened so as to reduce a shrinking force of a portion of the elastic member between the first pad and the second pad.

2. (Original) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member according to claim 1, wherein an anvil used when cutting off the elastic member is provided in a rear portion of each of the first and second pads.

3. (Original) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member according to claim 1, wherein an anvil used when cutting off the elastic member is provided in a front portion of each of the first and second pads.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member according to claim 1, wherein:

the carrier includes a rotor for revolving the first and second pads about a rotation axis;

the first and second pads are connected to the rotor each via a support rod;

in a circle about the rotation axis, a distance between [the] an anvil of the first pad used for cutting of the elastic member and an intersection point between the circle and a center line of the support rod of the first pad is shorter than a distance between the intersection point and one end of the first pad that is away from the anvil of the first pad; and

a distance between [the] an anvil of the second pad used for cutting the elastic member to an intersection point between the circle and a center line of the support rod of the second pad is shorter than a distance between the intersection point and one end of the second pad that is away from the anvil of the second pad.

5. (Original) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member according to claim 2, wherein:

the carrier includes a rotor for revolving the first and second pads about a rotation axis;

the first and second pads are connected to the rotor each via a support rod;

in a circle about the rotation axis, a distance between the anvil of the first pad and an intersection point between the circle and a center line of the support rod of the first pad is shorter than a distance between the intersection point and one end of the first pad that is away from the anvil of the first pad; and

a distance between the anvil of the second pad to an intersection point between the circle and a center line of the support rod of the second pad is shorter than a distance between the intersection point and one end of the second pad that is away from the anvil of the second pad.

6. (Original) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member according to claim 3, wherein:

the carrier includes a rotor for revolving the first and second pads about a rotation axis;

the first and second pads are connected to the rotor each via a support rod;

in a circle about the rotation axis, a distance between the anvil of the first pad and an intersection point between the circle and a center line of the support rod of the first pad is shorter than a distance between the intersection point and one end of the first pad that is away from the anvil of the first pad; and

a distance between the anvil of the second pad to an intersection point between the circle and a center line of the support rod of the second pad is shorter than a distance between the intersection point and one end of the second pad that is away from the anvil of the second pad.

7. (Original) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member according to claim 1, wherein each of the first and second pads includes a plurality of openings.

8. (Original) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member according to claim 2, wherein each of the first and second pads includes a plurality of openings.

9. (Original) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member according to claim 3, wherein each of the first and second pads includes a plurality of openings.

10. (Original) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member according to claim 1, wherein a holding surface of each of the first and second pads is smooth.

11. (Original) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member according to claim 2, wherein a holding surface of each of the first and second pads is smooth.

12. (Original) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member according to claim 3, wherein a holding surface of each of the first and second pads is smooth.

13. (Original) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member according to claim 1, wherein a holding surface of each of the first and second pads has irregularities.

14. (Original) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member according to claim 2, wherein a holding surface of each of the first and second pads has irregularities.

15. (Original) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member according to claim 3, wherein a holding surface of each of the first and second pads has irregularities.

16. (Original) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member according to claim 1, wherein each of the first and second pads includes a retractable needle for holding the elastic member thereon.

17. (Original) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member according to claim 2, wherein each of the first and second pads includes a retractable needle for holding the elastic member thereon.

18. (Original) An apparatus for producing an article having an elastic member according to claim 3, wherein each of the first and second pads includes a retractable needle for holding the elastic member thereon.

19. (Original) A method for producing an article, comprising the steps of:
stretching an elastic member;
placing the stretched elastic member successively on a first pad and a second pad;
cutting off the elastic member placed on the first and second pads at a position between the first and second pads; and
disposing the cut-off elastic member onto a web,
wherein in the cutting step, the elastic member is cut off after an interval between the first pad and the second pad is shortened.